

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

HUD-01 JUSE-00 HEW-04 OES-06 AID-05 /043 W

-----231446 011888 /44

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8732

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 267

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PGO (MULHIM, MUHAMMAD

SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, MAY 1-30, 1977

REF: JERUSALEM 199, STATE 35441

1. APPRECIATE CU'S QUICK AND POSITIVE RESPONSE
TO POST'S NOMINATION FOR MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT. FOLLOWING IS BIO DATA
AND INTERESTS OF MAYOR MUHAMMAD MULHIM (HIS SPELLING).

2. MULHIM, AGE 47, WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF HALHUL IN
APRIL, 1976, AS ONE OF A NEW GENERATION OF WEST BANK
MAYORS WHO OPENLY SUPPORT PALESTINIAN NATIONALISM (THROUGH
NON-VILENT MEANS). NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS MAINTAINED TIES
WITH THE GOJ AND LATE IN 1976 VISITED AMMAN TO
DISCUSS MUNICIPAL MATTERS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS.
HIS BROTHER, MUSTAFA (AKA MUSTAF MILHIM) DEPORTED
BY THE GOI IN 1974 FOR PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FRONT
ACTIVITIES IS LIVING IN AMMAN WHERE HE IS SAID
TO HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE PLO. ARTICULATE
IN ENGLISH AND ACCESSIBLE, MULHIM HAS GOOD CONTACTS
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WITH THE FOREIGN PRESS. RECENTLY, HE HAS TAKEN A
HAND IN DRAFTING STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE WEST
BANK MAYORS, E.G. THE RECENT ONE TO UNSG WALDHEIM,
AND SHOWS SOME ABILITY TO FURTHER CONSENSUS.

3. MULHIM GRADUATED FROM THE RASHIDIYA COLLEGE IN
JERUSALEM IN 1947 AND HAS RECENTLY STUDIED AT THE

LEBANESE UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT. FROM 1947 TO 1976, HE
TAUGHT ENGLISH IN THE HEBRON AREA EXCEPT FOR
TH PERIOD 1950 TO 1955 WHEN HE WAS WORKING AS AN INSTRUCTOR
FOR ARAMCO IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. HALHUL (POP. 10,000) IS LOCATED IN AN AGRICULTURAL
REGION WHICH PRODUCES GRAPES AND OTHER FRUITS.
LIVESTOCK, ESPECIALLY SHEEP AND GOATS, IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT
SOURCE OF INCOME.

5. WHILE IN THE U.S., MULHIM WOULD LIKE TO VISIT
IMMIGRANTS FROM HALHUL IN THE CHICAGO AREA AND HAS BEEN
INVITED TO HARVARD'S CENTER FOR INTL. AFFAIRS WHOSE
DIRECTOR, EDWARD SHEEHAN, HE MET DURING THE LATTER'S
RECENT VISIT TO THE WEST BANK. HE SHOULD ALSO HAVE
SOME FREE TIME IN WASHINGTON FOR UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS
WITH AMERICAN GROUPSINTERESTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. POST WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING MULHIM'S TENTATIVE
PROGRAM ASAP.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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